

REMARKS

This paper responds to the Office Action mailed February 12, 2004.

Art rejection. The Examiner has rejected all claims as supposedly anticipated by a US Pat. No. 6,421,706 to McNeill et al. ("McNeill").

Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite additional limitations. The limitations incorporated in claim 1 are disclosed in claim 5.

The differences between the amended claim on the one hand and the references cited in the Office Action will now be briefly outlined.

Claim 1 as amended now contains a limitation that the plugin causes data *for monitoring purposes* to be transmitted to a *further computer* connected through a network.

The data for monitoring purposes is, as explained in the description (page 7, lines 18-24 and page 8, second paragraph), test data used to test the further computer, also called host or target system 4. Such a test checks e.g. the availability of the target system, whether it is operative, etc.

The Examiner cites McNeill, column 8, lines 50 et seq. as mentioning monitoring. However, this passage merely mentions the exchange of chat text between two computers participating in a video conference. Furthermore, even if this chat text were deemed to be the same as "data for monitoring purposes" claimed in the present application, then there is an essential structural difference between the claimed invention and the setup disclosed by McNeill:

According to McNeill (Fig. 4 and col. 8, lines 32 to 57) the chat data is exchanged between

- the conference provider server 104 and

- the remote monitoring system 403 connected to the chat transceiver 405 which is a telephone, monitor or facsimile.

That is, there are essentially two types of computers participating in the process. The server sends browser pages, plugins etc. to the remote computer 403 and receives, among others, chat data from the remote computer 403 and displays it on the chat transceiver 405.

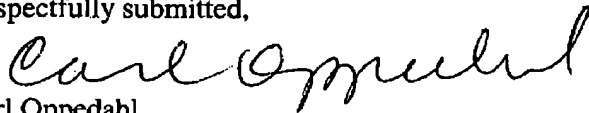
According to the claimed invention, on the other hand, there are *three* types of computers participating (see Fig. 1 and the accompanying description on page 7), namely

- the central system 5 from which the test programs are distributed as plugins,
- the probe computer 11.1, 11.2, 11.3, on which the plugins are executed, and
- the system 4 or, as claimed "the further computer (4)", being tested by providing it with the data for monitoring purposes.

In summary, the invention involves a further type of computer, namely the computer being monitored, and a three-level system, which is neither disclosed nor suggested by McNeill.

Reconsideration is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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